

## Mary's Pence Summer Reading List 2012: Our Founding Mothers

*Our dream for Mary's Pence is to sustain the vision of our Founding Mothers and continue to reach for more justice for women—to take bold action in challenging times. In this, our 25th year, let's listen to some of those who have taken bold steps before us.*

**Maureen Gallagher, OP:** The Founding Coordinator of Mary's Pence is a great Irish storyteller, and didn't all great writings begin in the oral tradition? So before you fetch your book to sit under the shade tree, enjoy Sr. Maureen Gallagher's retelling of the **beginning of Mary's Pence** at our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Chicago. Type: [bit.ly/Plnrjt](http://bit.ly/Plnrjt) into your web browser to link to the video.

**Edwina Gateley:** Also keynoting our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration this spring in Chicago, Edwina is known equally for her writings as her dynamic talks. Her latest book *Mothers, Sisters, Daughters: Standing on Their Shoulders* published by Orbis Books 2012, highlights 22 extraordinary women who have made the world a better place by pursuing their dreams and visions, often against enormous odds. Among them are beloved Hildegard of Bingen, alongside Brenda Myers-Powell who works among women in recovery in Chicago. Edwina offers poetry, prose, meditations, and children's books, available at [edwinagateley.com/books.html](http://edwinagateley.com/books.html).

**Rosemary Radford Ruether:** As the most prolific of our founding mothers, Rosemary has written numerous books and articles. Your summer immersion under a shade tree could start with her latest book, a second edition of *Women and Redemption: A Theological History*, updated and released in August of 2011 from Fortress Press. Or read more about women (of course!) in her classic *Sexism and God Talk* (1983), about eco-feminism in *Gaia and God* (1992), or choose from other historical and current issues. Perhaps her 2008 work, *Catholic Does Not Equal the Vatican*, proves timely.

**Yolanda Tarango, CCVI:** Sr. Yolanda's question spoken at our Chicago celebration, "What is Mary's Pence doing to build the movement?" guides us into our next 25 years. Thankfully, with thinkers and leaders such as her, we are able to reach out to Latina sisters in the Americas and learn together while we continue to build the movement toward justice and equality. Definitely among our summer reading are her works: *Hispanic Women: Prophetic Voice in the Church* (University of Scranton Press, 2006) which she co-authored with Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, former Mary's Pence board member who recently passed away. Also see Yolanda's chapter "*Las Marias*" of the *Feminist Movement* in *Women's Spirit Bonding*, Pilgrim Press, 1984.

**Amata Miller, IHM:** Part of the work of Mary's Pence is grounding ourselves in economic realities impacting our sisters throughout the Americas. Sr. Amata, as an economist, spent many years lobbying in Washington DC, urging policy solutions that impact low-income people everywhere. Now that she's back in academia as Professor of Economics at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN, she's most often quoting others' books in her lectures. But we think her chapter *Global Economic Structures: Their Human Implications* in Michael Zweig's book *Religion and Economic Justice* (1992), is a meaningful starting place for our current situation.

**Kaye Ashe, OP:** Sr. Kaye also recently attended our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Chicago, and we hope you'll take a look at her relevant 1997 work, *The Feminization of the Church?* published by Sheed & Ward. She served in academia and lectured widely on women's history, spirituality, and leadership. She has contributed magazine articles and chapters in books dedicated to women's issues.

**Teresita Weind, SNDdeN:** Currently Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Sr. Teresita has written articles and inspirational pieces, but after a day of reading and tired eyes, we suggest you take a minute to listen to her April 2012 address at Trinity Washington University, and experience *Radical Gratitude*: [bit.ly/LTwXbG](http://bit.ly/LTwXbG). Balm for the soul!

**Carol Coston, OP:** While Sr. Carol has spent a career founding organizations like NETWORK, Partners for the Common Good, and Santuario Sisterfarm in TX, she also found time to write. If you really are reading outside this summer, perhaps you'll find her book good company: *Permaculture: Finding Our Own Vines and Fig Trees*, by Sor Juana Press, 2003. Carol is creating an Office of Permaculture for her community, the Adrian Dominicans.

**Rosemary Muschal-Reinhardt:** Rosemary's work these days focuses on changing the paradigm from Aging to Sage-ing ([www.sage-ingguild.org](http://www.sage-ingguild.org)). We know spirituality and self-care are essential, and we recommend her book *Rituals for Women Coping with Breast Cancer* (2000), co-authored with the Prism Collective—a group of feminist educators and writers who create resources to make the world a safer and saner place for women. They have also published two curricula for young women: *A Sociology of Gender Roles Across Race, Class and Culture* and *Images of the Divine: A Multicultural Feminist Perspective*; and two journals, *Journey to the Divine Within* and *Journey to a Place with Faith-Filled Women*.

**Sheila Murphy:** Hon. Sheila Murphy, retired Cook County, IL judge was also present at our recent Chicago celebration. Sheila is featured in well-known author Thomas Cahill's recent book, *A Saint on Death Row* (Doubleday 2009). The book tells the story of Dominique Green on death row in Houston; Sheila introduced Cahill to Green, and her role on Green's defense team was a process of transformation and friendship before his execution. Sheila's dedication to ending capital punishment inspires us.

**Mary Luke Tobin, SL:** As one of only 15 women auditors at the Second Vatican Council, Sr. Mary Luke's wisdom lives on mostly in people who knew her and tell her stories. Her autobiography *Hope is An Open Door: Journeys in Faith*, published by Abingdon (1981), helps us remember those times of transformation. This book is worth a read in the midst of efforts to roll back the Vatican II church we've known. If your summer reading includes a laptop, take a look at her article: *Women in the Church Since Vatican II, America*, 1986, which you can link to at: [bit.ly/MOT4Ru](http://bit.ly/MOT4Ru) .

**Margaret Traxler, SSND:** One of our great examples of a lifelong activist, Sr. Margaret marched in Selma, led efforts for racial and gender justice, co-founded the National Coalition of American Nuns, and started educational and social services. Perhaps without time to write a book, she did however have the foresight to archive her papers at Marquette University (type: [bit.ly/MOTo2H](http://bit.ly/MOTo2H) into your browser). So if your summer calls for a more academic endeavor, here's your chance! There's also an oral history recording with Margaret at [bit.ly/OeFLpI](http://bit.ly/OeFLpI). This highlights the importance of preserving women's work and stories in archives. Mary's Pence archives are housed at the Ida B. Gannon Center at Loyola University, Chicago; where are yours?

**Janemarie Luecke, OSB:** Time for some poetry! While Sr. Janemarie died too young in 1987, she was a professor of English for 21 years at Oklahoma State University, where a scholarship was established in her name to promote academic writing on women in literature. We know she would approve of summer reading under shade trees, enjoying her book of poetry, *Wild Bird Eggs and Other Mysteries*, from Wake-Brook House, 1984.

*To end this book tour, we encourage you where possible to purchase books from women writers directly, or at a locally-owned bookstore. Check your local library, or [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org) for library availability beyond your hometown. You'll find some of these also at your favorite online bookstore; we've had good luck finding out-of-print copies at [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com), sometimes autographed.*

*We are only scratching the surface here. There are many other wise women, former board members, staff and grantees of Mary's Pence who we could have included. Check out our blog at [www.maryspence.org/blog](http://www.maryspence.org/blog) for more about our founders, and tell us what you think about their writings. Let us know what you're reading too!*

**Thank you again for your support and participation in the work of justice.**

**Happy reading!**